

May 4, 1983

many times the victim of the crime is a forgotten person. The idea behind the creation of the Board was this, that I felt at the time and apparently at least 24 other persons agreed with me that if somehow or other we made the public aware of the cost of crime, that they might more adequately fund the law enforcement sectors of our state and local government. They might recognize that there is a very deep and hidden cost to allowing a criminal element to exist within this society of ours. Now we are all aware, we are all aware, of the cost of maintaining our penal complex, court system, the state and local law enforcement bodies. We are well aware of that. I have provided for you a handout which I hope you will read and I apologize because it doesn't read very well, but I think it will tell you very briefly the various rights of the offender versus the victim's rights. I want to say at the outset that I am the first person to defend the offender's right to a fair trial and I do not want to take away any of those requirements to determine that an offender gets a fair trial and is treated fairly and equitably. I think that is important in our justice system, that we provide those protections so that first of all no innocent victim, no innocent person is convicted of a crime which they did not commit. I am adamant in that approach. I am also equally adamant in the idea that an individual who is minding his own business or his or her own business, doing their job, contributing to society, does not intend to break the law, but who happens to become a victim and incurs certain costs, ought to be reimbursed for some of those costs. Now I want to point out that in these figures, and again I want to emphasize that they are not...I do not guarantee them to be accurate to the Nth degree, they are approximations, but last year we spent over \$100 million, more than \$100 million to defend those persons who were accused of crimes and were convicted of crimes **and to provide for** their housing and their rehabilitation and all those other requirements that go along with it. The Crime Victims Reparation Board last year, and again I am...I think these figures are accurate, but they could be off a few dollars, last year the Crime Victims Reparation Board spent \$62,341. Now if you were to divide that, and I am not much of a mathematician, it would figure out to something less than one-tenth of a percent, I believe, that is spent on the innocent victims of criminals. Without a doubt, thousands, thousands of victims are not compensated in any way. I can recall for you some of the problems that have developed from personal acquaintances of mine who have been victims of criminals and victims of crime, who have suffered tremendous